

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A capacitor comprising:  
2 a body having first and second charge-storing elements in its interior, and  
3 having a plurality of exterior sides; and  
4 P separate terminals on at least three exterior sides, M of the separate  
5 terminals being coupled to the first charge-storing element, and N of the separate  
6 terminals being coupled to the second charge-storing element, wherein M, N, and P  
7 are positive integers, and wherein  $P=M+N$ .
- 1 2. The capacitor recited in claim 1, wherein the P separate terminals comprise  
2 at least four separate terminals on four different ones of the plurality of exterior  
3 sides.
- 1 3. The capacitor recited in claim 1, wherein the P separate terminals comprise  
2 at least five separate terminals on five different ones of the plurality of exterior  
3 sides.
- 1 4. The capacitor recited in claim 1, wherein the P separate terminals comprise  
2 at least six separate terminals on six different ones of the plurality of exterior sides.
- 1 5. The capacitor recited in claim 1, wherein the body has a geometrical shape  
2 of a rectangular solid.
- 1 6. A capacitor comprising:  
2 a body having an interior and a plurality of exterior sides;  
3 a first element to hold an electrical charge of a first polarity;  
4 a second element to hold an electrical charge of a second polarity;  
5 first and second terminals coupled to the first and second elements,  
6 respectively, and disposed on first and second ones of the plurality of exterior sides;  
7 and

10006189-120301

8 a third terminal coupled to the first element and disposed on a third one of  
9 the plurality of exterior sides, wherein the third terminal is electrically coupled to  
10 the first terminal only via the first element.

1 7. The capacitor recited in claim 6 and further comprising:  
2 at least one conductor within the interior;  
3 wherein the third terminal is electrically coupled to the first terminal only via  
4 the first element and the at least one conductor.

1 8. The capacitor recited in claim 6 and further comprising:  
2 at least one additional conductor within the interior; and  
3 a fourth terminal coupled to the second element and disposed on a fourth one  
4 of the plurality of exterior sides, wherein the fourth terminal is electrically coupled  
5 to the second terminal only via the second element and the at least one additional  
6 conductor.

1 9. The capacitor recited in claim 8, wherein the third and fourth exterior sides  
2 are on opposite sides of the body.

1 10. The capacitor recited in claim 6, wherein the first and second elements are  
2 within the interior.

1 11. The capacitor recited in claim 6, wherein the first element is separated from  
2 the second element by a dielectric material.

1 12. The capacitor recited in claim 6, wherein the body has a geometrical shape  
2 of a rectangular solid.

1 13. The capacitor recited in claim 6 and further comprising:  
2 at least one additional conductor within the interior; and

10006133-120301

3 a fourth terminal coupled to the first element and disposed on a fourth one of  
4 the plurality of exterior sides, wherein the fourth terminal is electrically coupled to  
5 the first terminal only via the first element and the at least one additional conductor.

1 14. The capacitor recited in claim 13, wherein the third and fourth exterior sides  
2 are on opposite sides of the body.

1 15. The capacitor recited in claim 6 and further comprising:  
2 a fourth terminal coupled to the second element and disposed on a fourth one  
3 of the plurality of exterior sides, wherein the fourth terminal is electrically coupled  
4 to the second terminal only via the second element; and  
5 a fifth terminal coupled to the first element and disposed on a fifth one of the  
6 plurality of exterior sides, wherein the fourth terminal is electrically coupled to the  
7 first terminal only via the first element.

1 16. The capacitor recited in claim 15 and further comprising:  
2 a sixth terminal coupled to the second element and disposed on a sixth one  
3 of the plurality of exterior sides, wherein the sixth terminal is electrically coupled to  
4 the second terminal only via the second element.

1 17. An electronic assembly comprising:  
2 a capacitor including  
3 a body having first and second charge-storing elements in its interior,  
4 and having a plurality of exterior sides; and  
5 P separate terminals on at least three exterior sides, M of the separate  
6 terminals being coupled to the first charge-storing element, and N of the  
7 separate terminals being coupled to the second charge-storing element,  
8 wherein M, N, and P are positive integers, and wherein  $P=M+N$ ; and  
9 at least one electrical element having a plurality of terminals coupled to the  
10 P separate terminals of the capacitor.

1 18. The electronic assembly recited in claim 17, wherein the electrical element is  
2 from the group comprising an electrical component and a substrate.

1 19. The electronic assembly recited in claim 18, wherein the electrical  
2 component comprises a capacitor.

1 20. The electronic assembly recited in claim 18, wherein the electrical  
2 component comprises an integrated circuit.

1 21. The electronic assembly recited in claim 17, wherein the P separate  
2 terminals comprise four separate terminals on four different ones of the plurality of  
3 exterior sides.

1 22. The electronic assembly recited in claim 17, wherein the P separate  
2 terminals comprise five separate terminals on five different ones of the plurality of  
3 exterior sides.

1 23. The electronic assembly recited in claim 17, wherein the P separate  
2 terminals comprise six separate terminals on six different ones of the plurality of  
3 exterior sides.

1 24. The electronic assembly recited in claim 17, wherein the capacitor body has  
2 a geometrical shape of a rectangular solid.

1 25. A method of fabricating a capacitor having a plurality of exterior sides  
2 comprising:  
3 constructing first and second charge-storing elements that are separated by a  
4 dielectric material;  
5 forming P separate terminals on at least three exterior sides, M of the  
6 separate terminals being coupled to the first charge-storing element, and N separate  
7 terminals being coupled to the second charge-storing element, wherein M, N, and P  
8 are positive integers, and wherein  $P=M+N$ .

1 26. The method recited in claim 25, wherein, in forming, at least four separate  
2 terminals are formed on four different ones of the plurality of exterior sides.

1 27. The method recited in claim 25, wherein, in forming, at least five separate  
2 terminals are formed on five different ones of the plurality of exterior sides.

1 28. The method recited in claim 25, wherein, in forming, at least six separate  
2 terminals are formed on six different ones of the plurality of exterior sides.

1 29. The method recited in claim 25, wherein, in forming, the plurality of exterior  
2 sides are of a rectangular solid.

1 30. A method comprising:  
2 positioning a capacitor having separate terminals on at least three sides on a  
3 substrate;  
4 electrically coupling a separate terminal of a first side to a first terminal on  
5 the substrate;  
6 electrically coupling a separate terminal of a second side to a second  
7 terminal on the substrate; and  
8 electrically coupling a separate terminal of a third side to a third terminal on  
9 the substrate.

1 31. The method recited in claim 30, wherein, in coupling, the first terminal on  
2 the substrate comprises a conductive bar.

1 32. The method recited in claim 30, wherein, in coupling, the first and second  
2 terminals on the substrate comprise conductive bars.

1 33. The method recited in claim 30, wherein, in coupling, an additional separate  
2 terminal of the first side is electrically coupled to an additional terminal on the  
3 substrate.

1 34. The method recited in claim 30, wherein, in coupling, the separate terminal  
2 of the first side is electrically coupled to an additional terminal on the substrate.

1 35. A method comprising:  
2 positioning a capacitor having P separate terminals on at least three sides  
3 adjacent to a substrate having M terminals;  
4 positioning an electrical element having N terminals adjacent to the  
5 capacitor; and  
6 electrically coupling the P separate terminals to the M terminals and N  
7 terminals,  
8 wherein M, N, and P are positive integers, and wherein  $P=M+N$ .

1 36. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the capacitor, the  
2 capacitor has P separate terminals on at least four sides.

1 37. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the capacitor, the  
2 capacitor has P separate terminals on at least five sides.

1 38. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the capacitor, the  
2 capacitor has P separate terminals on at least six sides.

1 39. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the capacitor, the M  
2 terminals of the substrate comprise at least one conductive bar.

1 40. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the capacitor, the M  
2 terminals of the substrate comprise two conductive bars, and the capacitor is  
3 positioned between the two conductive bars.

1 41. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the electrical  
2 element, the N terminals of the electrical element comprise at least one conductive  
3 bar.

1 42. The method recited in claim 35, wherein, in positioning the electrical  
2 element, the N terminals of the electrical element comprise two conductive bars, and  
3 the two conductive bars are positioned on either side of the capacitor.

10006188, 120301